

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Method of manufacturing, from a strip of possibly perforated sheet material metal (17), a structured packing corrugation (1), the overall having a surface [[of]] which is generated substantially by sweeping a repetitive profile (4) parallel to [[the]] edges (2, 3) of the strip, along a directrix path (8) which is non-rectilinear over at least part of its length and having a main orientation which is oblique with respect to [[the]] edges of the strip, in which comprising performing a folding-pressing operation is carried out on [[the]] a metal strip (17) in successive steps, by means of two opposed dies (11, 12) with a relative movement alternating between coming together and moving apart, these dies having active surfaces (11, 12) which are substantially conjugate mate with the two faces of the corrugation, characterized in that the strip is made of metal wherein, in at least one non-rectilinear region, at least some convex apexes (13A to 16A) of at least one die (11, 12) have a reduced height compared with that of an adjacent rectilinear region.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 2,
~~characterized in that 1, wherein~~ all the convex apexes of the two
dies (11, 12) have a reduced height in each or one
non-rectilinear region.

4. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 2,
~~characterized in that the 1, wherein~~ said reduction in height is
progressive from the said adjacent rectilinear region.

5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the strip (17) is perforated before
the folding-pressing operation is carried out.

6. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the strip (17) is annealed before
it undergoes folding-pressing, at least in the regions of this
strip which correspond to the non-rectilinear regions (10) of the
directrix path (8).

7. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1,
~~characterized in that the directrix wherein said path~~ (8) has a
rectilinear main part (9) and at least one curved end part (10)
which ends substantially perpendicular to the edges (2, 3) of the
corrugation (1).

8. (currently amended) Method according to Claim 7, characterized in that the directrix wherein said path (8) has an elongate S-shape, with a rectilinear main part (9) and two curved end parts (10) which end substantially perpendicular to the edges (2, 3) of the corrugation (1).

9. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the profile (4) is zig-zag shaped with substantially rectilinear sides (5).

10. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the corrugation (1) is a cross-corrugated packing corrugation.

11. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of making the sheet-metal strip (17) advance in successive steps between the dies in the open position thereof.

12-16. (canceled)